

Types Of Professionalisation In Swiss National Sport Federations

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The aim of this study is to identify types of professionalisation in Swiss national sport federations using hierarchical cluster analysis, based on a multi-dimensional framework of professionalisation. Therefore, data was collected using an online survey of all Swiss national sport federations (n = 69; 81%).

The analysis reveals four types of professionalisation: the formalised federations managed by paid staff; the federations managed by volunteers and a few paid executives; the federations with differing formalisation and paid staff in the sport sector; and the moderately formalised federations managed by volunteers. When considering organisational characteristics as external measures, the results indicate that the formalised federations managed by paid staff (cluster 1) are by far the largest, have most financial resources and represent almost exclusively Olympic sports. The federations managed by volunteers and a few paid executives (cluster 2) have scarce financial resources for such middle-sized federations. Just one of these federations represents an Olympic sport. The federations with differing formalisation and paid staff in the sport sector (cluster 3) are rather small federations, but have more financial resources available than other federations of similar size. These federations represent most often an Olympic sport. The moderately formalised federations managed by volunteers (cluster 4) are small federations with scarce financial resources. Nevertheless, a few of them represent an Olympic sport. From our results we conclude there is no best type of professionalisation, but that the type should be in accordance with the organisational characteristics of a federation.